

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A routing device comprising:
 - a dynamic routing module, configured operable to be executed at a particular time;
 - a configuration manager, coupled to a second routing device, configured operable to store configuration information associated with operational characteristics of a second dynamic routing module associated with the second routing device; and
 - a network information module, configured operable to store routing information from the second routing device; and
 - a communication module, configured operable to transmit a hitless restart event based upon an event associated with the said execution of the said dynamic routing module, the said hitless restart event signaling network enabled devices to continue forwarding packets to a cluster of network enabled devices, each of the network enabled devices in the cluster configured to communicate with network devices external to the cluster being accessed through a single network address, the said routing device configured to route information for the cluster;

wherein the apparatus is configured to receive one or more incoming messages indicating the single network address as a destination address, and to route the one or more incoming messages to a particular network enabled device in the cluster of network enabled devices;

wherein the said dynamic routing module is configured operable to execute upon an indication that the second dynamic routing module is no longer operating;

wherein the said dynamic routing module is configured to operate according to the said configuration information.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1 wherein the ~~said~~ dynamic routing module implements an OSPF routing protocol.
4. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a non-functioning state of the second dynamic routing module.
5. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a predetermined time.
6. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a condition associated with network traffic.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ~~said~~ stored configuration information is stored in a device different from the ~~said~~ routing device.
9. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1, wherein another device transmits a hitless restart upon an event associated with the ~~said~~ execution of the ~~said~~ dynamic routing module.

10. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 1, further comprising a communications module configured operable to receive a reply from another routing device associated with the receipt of a hitless restart.

11. (Currently Amended) A routing device comprising:

a means for dynamically routing datagrams, configured operable to be executed at a particular time;

a means for configuring the said means for dynamically routing, coupled to a second routing device, configured operable to store configuration information associated with operational characteristics of a second means for dynamically routing datagrams associated with the second routing device; and

means for storing network information, configured operable to store routing information from the second routing device; and

means for transmitting a hitless restart based upon an event associated with the said execution of the said means for dynamic routing, the said hitless restart event signaling network enabled devices to continue forwarding packets to a cluster of network enabled devices, each of the network enabled devices in the cluster configured to communicate with network devices external to the cluster being accessed through a single network address, the said routing device configured to route information for the cluster;

wherein the apparatus is configured to receive one or more incoming messages indicating the single network address as a destination address, and to route the one or more incoming messages to a particular network enabled device in the cluster of network enabled devices;

wherein the said means for dynamically routing is executed upon an indication that the second means for dynamically routing is no longer operating;

wherein the said means for configuring configures the said means for dynamically routing according to the said configuration information.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11 wherein the said means for dynamic routing implements an OSPF routing protocol.

14. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11 wherein the said particular time is associated with a non-functioning state of the second means for dynamic routing.

15. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11 wherein the said particular time is associated with a predetermined time.

16. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11 wherein the said particular time is associated with a condition associated with network traffic.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11, wherein at least a portion of the said stored configuration information is stored in a device different from the said routing device.

19. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11, wherein another device transmits a hitless restart event upon an event associated with the said execution of the said means for dynamic routing.

20. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 11, further comprising a means for communication configured operable to receive a reply from another routing device associated with the receipt of a hitless restart event.
21. (Currently Amended) A a program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:
- storing configuration information associated with operational characteristics of a second dynamic routing module associated with a second routing device;
- storing routing information from the second routing device;
- configuring the said first routing device according to the said configuration information;
- upon an indication that the second dynamic routing device is no longer operating,
- selectively routing datagrams through the said first routing device; and
- transmitting a hitless restart event, the said hitless restart event signaling network enabled devices to continue forwarding packets to a cluster of network enabled devices, each of the network enabled devices in the cluster configured to communicate with network devices external to the cluster being accessed through a single network address, the said routing device configured to route information for the cluster; and
- upon receiving one or more incoming messages indicating the single network address as a destination address, routing the one or more incoming messages to a particular network enabled device in the cluster of network enabled devices.
22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21 wherein the ~~said~~ method for routing implements an OSPF routing protocol.
24. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a non-functioning state of the second means for dynamic routing.
25. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a predetermined time.
26. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a condition associated with network traffic.
27. (Cancelled)
28. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the ~~said~~ stored configuration information is stored in a device different from the ~~said~~ routing device.
29. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21, wherein another device transmits a hitless restart event upon an event associated with the ~~said~~ execution of the ~~said~~ method for routing.
30. (Currently Amended) The routing device of claim 21, further comprising a means for communication configured ~~operable~~ to receive a reply from another routing device, the reply associated with the receipt of a hitless restart event by the another routing device.

31-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of routing datagrams through a first routing device in a network, the method comprising:

storing configuration information associated with operational characteristics of a second dynamic routing module associated with a second routing device;

storing routing information from the second routing device;

configuring the said first routing device according to the said configuration information;

upon an indication that the second dynamic routing device is no longer functioning,

selectively routing datagrams through the said first routing device; ~~and~~

transmitting a hitless restart event, the said hitless restart event signaling network enabled devices to continue forwarding packets to a cluster of network enabled devices, each of the network enabled devices in the cluster configured to communicate with network devices external to the cluster being accessed through a single network address, the said routing device configured to route information for the cluster; and

upon receiving one or more incoming messages indicating the single network address as a destination address, routing the one or more incoming messages to a particular network enabled device in the cluster of network enabled devices;

wherein the said step of selectively routing is performed upon an indication that the second dynamic routing device is no longer operating.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the said step of selectively routing is performed under an OSPF routing protocol.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a non-functioning state of the second dynamic routing module.
39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a predetermined time.
40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35 wherein the ~~said~~ particular time is associated with a condition associated with network traffic.
41. (Cancelled)
42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the ~~said~~ step of storing configuration information is performed in a device different from the ~~said~~ first routing device.
- 43-44. (Cancelled)